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May 1, 2011

Volume 11 No. 5

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## Lakes Residents Say "No" to Windmills

By Dahlia Grossman Editor/publisher

An unidentified man attending the April 2 meeting of the Lakes Town Council summed up the frustration felt by residents of the Lakes Communities and nearby Fairmont and Antelope Acres over the proposed wind turbine project:

"We're paying taxes and you're getting subsidized for a project we don't want that is going to destroy our communities," said the man to Cliff Graham, director NextEra Energy Resources

the company that wants to erect 90 415-foot-tall wind turbines on a 7,000-acre site just north of Lake Hughes and very close to the Poppy Reserve.

The comment referred to the 30% federal government subsidy that is paid to companies building so-called "green" energy projects.

A crowd of about 150 residents of the Lakes, Fairmont and Antelope Acres, who attended the presentation, applauded the resident's comment about the subsidy.

While most residents say they are not opposed to renewable energy projects, the question, as always, is "Why build it here?" The energy generated by the turbines would be directed to Los Angeles, not to the Lakes Communities, according to Graham.

The other commonly asked question is "How will we benefit?"

"Would we get free electricity," asked Tad Summers of Elizabeth Lake, who is See Wind Turbines, page 2.\_



Congratulations to Leona Valley's new queens (left to right): Miss Leona Valley, Alyssa Davis; Junior Miss, Aspen Brito and Little Miss, Grace Henderson. The new royalty was crowned on Saturday, Mar. 26, at the Leona Valley Community Building. Photo courtesy of Leona Valley's Cherry Chapters.

## Green Valley Wants Frisbee Golf Course

By Mary Jo Steele

Green Valley residents are doing everything conceivable to get their Frisbee Golf Course reopened. At the April 13 meeting of the Green Valley Town Council, a lively discussion was encouraged on the plans to reopen the course. A club has been formed and the insurance required by U.S.D.A. Forest Service has been acquired.

John Toomy will be the spokesperson for the group and will be a member of the Charitable Hall Board. As soon as the written agreement between the Charitable Hall and the newly formed group has been submitted to Mr. Bob Blount at the Forest Service office in Santa Clarita the wheels will be put in motion to grant the permit and the Frisbee Course will reopen.

#### HE MOUNTAIN YODELER

Deadline for ads, payments and articles for the June 1 issue is May 15. Payments: Mountain Yodeler, Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532.

For more information, call 724-1293 or 965-2201 or email dahlia.grossman@verizon.net

## Neighborhood Watch **Program Initiated**

By Shawny Kaltenbach Staff writer

The message was loud and clear at the Lakes first Neighborhood Watch meeting on April 13 at the Saint Elizabeth Mission: Through meetings and raised awareness, safer communities can be realized, according to keynote speaker Deputy Robbie Royster.

Lake Hughes resident, Gene Heintz, who obtained training for this important endeavor, organized the meet-

Topics of discussion included "What is Neighborhood Watch, How/where do We Start One," and many other important points. It was surprising to hear how many 911 dispatchers the call/information goes through before it actually reaches the deputy on duty responding to the call.

See Neighborhood Watch, pg. 2



#### MARIJUANA SEASON IN THE LAKES & VALLEYS

By Norm Judd, senior staff writer

Our sheriffs took reports of two more crimes and issued a warning to residents as the "marijuana growing season" begins.

March 10, 2011, thieves removed a gate in the 15300 block of Calle Naranjo in Green Valley, and stole a \$2,000 generator and a weed wacker.

Also, on April 3 or 4, 2011, thieves took a welder and jackhammer valued at \$7,200, from the 19300 block in Pine Canyon,

Community Deputy Robbie Royster told The Mountain Yodeler, "Residents should secure equipment that might be used in the growing of marijuana. It's spring and these thefts may indicate a trend."

bines.

Nothing Graham said convinced this crowd that any benefit would ensue from the project for the people of the Lakes or their northern neighbors.

Graham said that only the top 50 feet of the turbines would be visible from the Lakes and that flashing lights would only be required on 12 or 13 of the turbines, not all of them.

Paul Koslo, a 41-year resident of Lake Hughes, said that when he moved here, only one or two lights were visible from the Antelope Valley to the Lakes. "Now it looks like Las Vegas," said Koslo. "Avenue I looks like a war zone," he said.

Another major concern of residents is the destruction of the natural habitat of our native wildlife. To determine the effect of the project on wildlife, an environmental impact report will be prepared by SWCA Environmental Consultants. According to SWCA representative David Daitch, his company will conduct its studies over a one-

year period. The studies will

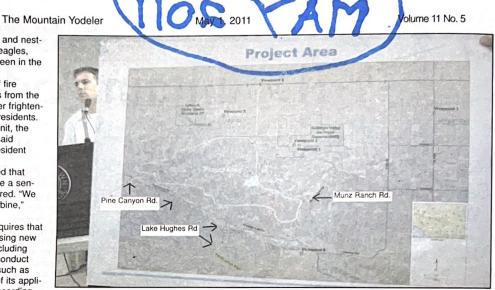
include migration and nesting behaviors of eagles, which are often seen in the area.

The danger of fire caused by sparks from the turbines is another frightening possibility to residents. "The bigger the unit, the higher the risk," said Elizabeth Lake resident Rob Kennard.

Graham replied that each unit will have a sensor that is monitored. "We can see every turbine," said Graham.

The county requires that companies proposing new developments, including energy projects, conduct public meetings, such as this one, as part of its application process. According to Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich, NextEra submitted its application for the project on Monday, April 4, the first business day after the community expressed its utter abhorrence for the project.

(See related articles and letters to the editor, on pages 7, 16, 17 and 19.)



Cliff Graham, project director for proposed wind farm project just north of Lake Hughes, shows where the project would be located. (See circled area.) Photo: Dahlia Grossman

#### Neighborhood Watch -

from page 1

Royster, in an unincorporated and rural area such as ours, many homes are on hard to reach roads or have addresses that are not posted or not visible from the street. The block map being created could be key in saving your home.

Also discussed was a phone tree. If you're gone and possibly getting burglarized, your neighbor could call and ask if you're familiar with the person parked in front of your house emptying it. Due to the use of smart phones, emails can reach a person instantly too. Royster said that although crime generally goes up in a bad economy, it is actually going down in our area due to community involvement, such as the Volunteers on Patrol program.

Discussions also focused on getting volunteers, volunteer block captains and an alternate block captain, escorting those unable to drive themselves to meetings, flyer distribution, signs, future meetings, a secretary and refreshment committee to help motivate people to come out. Signs can be obtained online at www.nnwi.org (National Neighborhood Watch Institute).

Deputy Royster also suggested ways of making the meetings fun, keeping the neighborhood involved by having block parties, and becoming better acquainted with our neighbors.

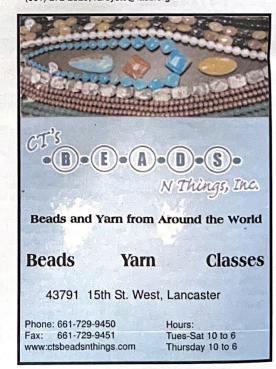
A flyer was handed out with important points to be on the alert for. (We will publish some of these tips in upcoming issues of *The Yodeler*.) Topics included recognizing suspicious activity, persons and vehicles, describing and reporting events. Descriptions of vehicles and persons are a major concern to police because without details, they can do noth-

ing. For example, when profiling a person, start at the top and move downward, taking in as many details as you can.

Other measures were discussed extensively, such as how to keep your home safe and secure, street lighting and security systems. Deputy Royster even talked about how to deal with a confrontation with an intruder.

Bob Schneider and Dennis Miller are your contacts for information, but you can always contact Deputy Royster with questions and request additional brochures at the following address:

Deputy Robbie Royster, Community Relations/Crime Prevention, Palmdale Sheriff Station (661) 272-2520; raroyste@lasd.org





To assist local residents in reducing the hazardous fuels on their property The USDA Forest Service will be conducting chipping operations free of charge

SAT JUNE 4 Green Valley Charitable Hall

SAT JUNE 11
Lakes Community Center



The Mountain Yodeler

#### COMING EVENTS

#### Pet Vaccine Clinics

Lake Hughes
May 7
Lakes Community Center
(Johnson Hall - back building)

Green Valley
May 28 from 11 am to 1 pm
Green Valley Charitable Hall,
39118 Calle Bonita and Spunky
Cyn. Rd.

Leona Valley
June 16
6-7:30 (evening clinic)

#### Swap Meet

The annual spring Swap Meet sponsored by Green Valley Charitable Hall will be held May 15 and 16.

The cost is \$10 for the weekend.

Anyone interested in having it at their home please contact Bev or Dick at 270-9534, so we can get you on the map.

Those who would like to set up at the Hall can show up that weekend and pick your spot.

#### Cherry Festival Parade / Craft Fair

June 4

The Craft Fair will be located at the community building 8367 Elizabeth Lake Rd. from 9 am to 4 pm. Call Jan at 270-9268 if you wish to be a craft vendor. Youth Fun Run hosted by Sertoma.

More details next month.

May 1, 2011

#### 4-ति Mexican Dinner May ७

Leona Valley Racketteers 4-H Club is hosting a Mexican Dinner on Saturday, May 7, 5 to 8 p.m., at the Leona Valley Community Building, 8367 Elizabeth Lake Road.

Pre-sale tickets are only \$6. Keep and eye out for 4-Hers selling tickets at local businesses.

Tickets att the door— Adults \$6, Seniors \$6, Children (10 and under) \$5

Come and enjoy the fun and a great Mexican meal.

Build your own tacos at our taco bar along with Albondigas Soup, rice and beans. Lemonade and coffee will be available and delicious desserts will be sold.

Call Jeannie Hults 270-1188 for details and pre-sale tickets.

Everyone from the Lakes and Valleys is welcome!

#### Fire Service Day

The 14th annual Fire Service Day will be Saturday, May 14, from 10 am to 4 pm at Fire Station 129, at 42110 6th St. West, in Lancaster.

For more information, you may call (661) 948-3785, or e-mail Carmen Mackey, the Community Services Liaison at CMackey@fire.lacounty.gov

#### ooine Clinia

#### Vaccine Clinic Reminders

By Janice Gantenbein

The Leona Valley vaccine clinic was well attended. Thanks to all who participated and to the volunteers: Larry Tyler, ingrid Welch, Gayle Kaye, Kathy Londergan and Rick Butler.

The next clinic is on May 7 in Lake Hughes.

Please remember that these are vaccination clinics and are NOT for seeking veterinary treatment for your animals.

Also, these are low cost community fundraisers and not by donation only.

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Volume 11 No. 5

## HELUS Kindergarten Registration

We are currently enrolling students that will be 5 years old by December 2, 2011 for our kindergarten classes.

We have an excellent reputation for teaching students the skills necessary to move forward in their academic careers.

If your student is eligible to be enrolled for next school year, please contact the school office to get a registration packet. Also you can just come by the school office Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3 pm to pick up a packet.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office at 661-724-1231.

We look forward to welcoming you and your student!!

# Page 3 Power Lines Discussed

The power line issue was also a point of discussion. We are in a holding pattern until the LADWP releases the 1st draft of the plan. At that time we can take steps to encourage LADWP to place the lines in a pattern more agreeable to the Green Valley residents involved.

Green Valley Town
Council President Kimmel
explained the possibility of a
slightly different route to be
presented to LADWP when
discussion reopens on the
project.

We will again call upon all of our citizens to join in a letter writing project to let L.A. County and LADWP know what we want as far as placement of the lines.

#### Dumping in Green Valley Must Stop

By Mary Jo Steele Staff writer

There is an ongoing problem with someone using the recycle bins at the corner of San Francisquito and Spunky Canyon as a place to dump all their trash. These bins are for recyclable articles only. In recycling we are not only helping the environment, but the proceeds keep our Town Council functioning for the community.

Different ideas were discussed to discover who is doing the dumping so we can educate them about what trash can be disposed of there. A few different approaches were discussed and it was decided that with our small community and the placement of the bins in a very visible area we will be successful in discovering who this person is.

We encourage you to join us at our next meeting of Green Valley Town Council on May 11 at 7 pm at the Green Valley Charitable Hall. This is your home. Get Involved!

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LAKES WOMANS CLUB

## TARD SALE

Sat., May 7, 8 am to 3 pm

Lakes Community Center

Donations needed. Call Cindy at

270-9172 to arrange to drop items off or to have them picked up. All proceeds go to charity.

Next regular meeting: Wed., May 11 Lakes Community Center

#### **COMING EVENTS**

#### YARD SALE

Don't miss the Woman's Club's annual yard sale on May 7 from 8 am to 3 pm in the front parking lot of the Lakes Community Center. If you would like to donate items to be sold, please call Cindy at 270-9172 to arrange to drop off your items or have them picked up. Remember, all proceeds go to charity.

#### FREE CHIPPING DAYS

<u>Green Valley</u> - **June 4** from 10 am to 2 pm <u>Lakes Community Center</u> - **June 14** from 10 am to 2 pm. See, also, page 19.

#### Lakes Little League Spaghetti Dinner

May 20, from 5 to 8 pm: All-you-can-eat Spaghetti with salad, dinner roll and dessert. Drinks free for children 2-12 yrs and available for puchase to adults for \$1.00. There will be a silent auction with winners announced at 7:30 pm. Last year's fundraising dinner/auction raised enough funds for new equipment and sunshades. You or your company can help us by providing funds in the form of a grant or by donating goods and services. This is one of the last opportunities for families to volunteer to meet your 4 hour requirement. A copy of our tax-exempt certificate is available upon request.

#### Libertarian Party

AV Libertarian Party will meet at 7 pm on May 20 for dinner and 8 pm for a business meeting at the Green House Cafe in the AV Mall. For more information, see http://sites.google.com/site/avlibertarian

#### NOTICES

Call Firefighters needed for Green Valley and Leona Valley. Call John Grimm at 270-1628.

Ham Operators Needed In all communities, especially Green Valley. Call Doris at 609-3888 or the Fire Safe Council at 270-





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## Leona Valley Starts Festivities

Leona Valley residents are gearing up for a great spring. The Leona Valley Improvement Association (LVIA) has several events planned for the next few months, culminating in the annual Cherry Parade and Festival.

The Leona Valley
Community Building, located
at 8367 Elizabeth Lake Road,
is the venue for most of the
festivities in the community.
On the grounds are the Leona
Heritage Park and Museum,
the old one-room schoolhouse
and the Lee Rackett Arena.

Coming up on June 4 is the Cherry Parade and LVIA is looking for a grand marshal and a junior grand marshal. The grand marshal is chosen from people nominated by Leona Valley residents for their service to the community.

Anyone interested in nominating someone can fill in a form, found by the Post Office, or just write out the name of the person nominating someone, the name of their nominee, contact information for both parties and why they think that person should have

this year's position leading the parade. Place the nomination in the LVIA box in Rancher's Market. (Leona Valley residents only, please.) The nomination deadline is May 18.

The plans for the Cherry Parade are under way and information on all these events can be found on the Leona Valley Town Council website at www.leonavalleytowncouncil.com.

#### Tour of Proposed Development to be Rescheduled

A tour of Valley Vineyards is to be rescheduled, according to Aaron Green, who represented the proposed development at the April 12 meeting of Leona Valley Town Council.

Residents had suspected that the original tour had been cancelled because the town council offered to help, but Green replied that it was canceled simply because owner Bill Ford couldn't make it.

## CERT Exercise Rescheduled

The Lakes and Valleys CERT team exercise in Leona Valley has been rescheduled to Saturday, July 16. Once again our CERT team will tackle a different scenario. Local ranch owners will be instructing us on how to handle and help them with livestock in the event of an evacuation. The Sheriff's Dept. Volunteer Mounted Unit will also be there to assist.

CERT members will meet at the Community Center in Leona Valley at 7:30 am. There will be coffee, snacks and videos of previous exercises. The Leona Valley emergency container will be open for inspection at this event. This will be a completely different and enjoyable learning experience. Don't miss this exercise! Please RSVP ASAP to enable us to prepare for this exercise. Also, if you are experienced in livestock handling and transportation please contact me.

Robin Kennard Lakes & Valleys CERT 661.917.8806 or robsusakiwi@msn.com



## Local Business News Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

I feel it's important to mention that I have found yet another really great resource from the Yodeler.

After moving into our home, we realized we had various projects we needed help with or we'd never get around to them ourselves. We got several bids that were generally really high and completely contrary to the economy's climate, so we gave up looking for almost a year.

Then months later in an issue of the Yodeler I noticed an insert for Genesis Construction of Leona Valley. I was skeptical due to past negative experiences, but called anyhow. We got a call back promptly from the owner Tony Unger and he came over and shortly afterward gave us the most reasonable bids we'd ever received. We've been so happy with the quality of work and his willingness to work within our sometimes changing needs (& minds) that we wanted to spread the word.

Additionally, he was true to his word with his bid, and completes the work by the time he says he'll be done. I can honestly say I've never had that smooth of an experience, ever. We referred him to friends who thought they needed a new roof too. They didn't end up needing a new roof but minor repairs.

What a relief it's been to find an honest caring local contractor who, in spite of the economy, is making some of our design dreams come true. Our new shed even has a window that matches the windows in our home.

He can be reached at:

Tony Unger Genesis Construction & Consulting, Inc. Leona Valley 661-510-6351



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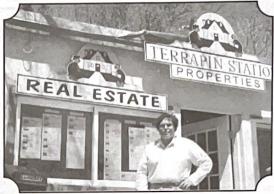
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FAX: 661-286-2137

Email: homesbymarcella@yahoo.com



Robert Glaser has served our communities' real estate needs for four years.

#### Dog Training Advocates Report to Town Council

Wording of the proposal to expand dog training within the Leona Valley CSD to make the activity permissible in A-1 as well as A-2 properties was submitted to Mitch Glaser of the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning at the request of Leona Valley Town Council President Bill Elliott.

According to a report by Steve Hull at the April 12 town council meeting, Mr. Glaser confirmed that the Leona Valley CSD is legally permitted to alter county zoning in this manner. "He called our analysis "absolutely correct," said Hull.

Hull said Mr. Glaser suggested that the following wording would more appropriately fit the format for CSDs:

"Zone-specific Development Standards.

1. Agricultural Zones.

a. Permitted Uses. The following use shall be permitted:

Dog training schools. For the purposes of this subsection, the definition of

training schools" shall include facilities for the practice, training and competition of sports, including but not limited to herding, agility, flyball, field trials, earth sports, rally, and obedience."

This wording was submitted to members of the CSD Dog Training Committee, who had developed the original submission. According to Hull, some positive comments were made, but no negative comments or suggestions for further changes were made.

Therefore, Hull, on behalf of the committee, asked that the town council add the above wording to the Leona Valley Community Standards District proposal to be submitted to voters.

Leona Valley Town Council is working with the county to modify its current CSDs.

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# Business Terrapin Station Properties

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Terrapin Station Properties is located at 9031 Elizabeth Lake Road, just West of 90th Street. Make sure that you enter the office on the west side of the building (the front door, facing Elizabeth Lake Road), as another real estate company has just opened up its office on the other side. Our office phone number is (661) 270-9500.



## Leona Valley Works to Preserve History

By Dahlia Grossman, editor/publisher

Efforts to have the Leona Valley Schoolhouse declared a historical building have accelerated. According to Norm Hickling deputy to Supervisor Antonovich, the original application, which was submitted in 1992, was rejected by the state because the forms were filled out incorrectly. "The county wants to get this done and so does the state," said Hickling at the April 12 meeting of Leona Valley Town Council.

The key factor in obtaining historical status is whether or not the building is restorable, according to Rich Thomas, member of West AV Historical Society. Thomas said that a certain amount of the original structure has to be intact in order to get historical status. "By Wed., we'll know if it's restorable or if we should level it and build a replica," said Thomas. "It will cost \$100,000 to \$120,000 to restore," he said

In related news, Historical Society member Karl Pearcy reported that John Sherman, the organization's president, is intent on acquiring Indian artifacts from the Antelope Valley Indian Museum Historic State Park to be housed in the new Leona Valley museum. "If the Indian Museum has to downsize, the artifacts could end up in Sacramento," said Pearcy. Pearcy said the security system is almost complete and at that time, the West AV Historical Society - which operates the LV museum - will request that some of the Indian artifacts be transferred here.

#### Kudos for County Road Dept.

The county's road department received a compliment from a Leona Valley resident at the April 12 town council meeting. "The county did a really good job of graveling the frosty roads during recent storms," said Karen Bryan. Bryan also noted that the county did a good job of keeping the mud off of Leona Avenue.



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## Subscribe to The Mountain Yodeler

Send your donation of \$25 to Mountain Yodeler, P.O. Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532. Ensure that your community newspaper will continue to provide you with news of political and social events.

#### letter to the editor

To the editor:

Trying to be reasonable

Which, for me, is sometimes difficult. After attending the town council meeting with the wind farm representatives I came away resigned to the fact that this project is going to happen whether we residents like it or not.

I don't know how many of you have noticed, but there are power line towers already in place with more being built west of 110st around Ave. K. Now, they may be for another source coming into the main junction area on Ave. J but I would bet they will be utilized to bring in the power from the proposed turbines.

Now this is why I think it is a done deal. When someone in the crowd at the meeting suggested our community get "free" power there was rousing support for THAT idea ... what happen to our indignation ??? Money. That's what happened.

So extend that thought with the knowledge that the state and county will reap benefits from this project to the tune of 100 million dollars every year it is in operation and you can see the writing on the wall. It IS a done deal.

So how do we reconcile this? Well for starters we acknowledge that the people who will be most affected by this live on May 1, 2011

the plateau north and above Lake Hughes. There are four permanent families and one extended transient family living up there. They will bear the brunt of the visual disruption.

That said, my personal opinion, having driven through the Tehachapi wind turbines many times, is that there is something almost "majestic" and possibly soothing about those giant propellers slowly spinning in the wind.

As far as the red light issue which folks made a big deal out of, we have a red light on the cell tower and that seems to have disappeared over time from our consciousness. And these lights will be much further away. I doubt they will be disruptive of our "Night Skies."

And lastly, the "wildlife corridor".... I truly doubt that their really are more than a handful who consider this a real issue. It is usually an idea small groups use to stop something they don't like at the expense of progress. It is not like they will be blocking the migration of any wildlife. There are miles of terrain east and west for the animals to pass through on and many trees for any birds to move their "condos" to.

I feel poorly for the folks up top above my place, but by and large I think this project will bring benefits to California and, whether we admit it or not, to our community.

Trying to be reasonable. Jim Zubiena





Locks of Love at Leona Valley Salon: Above: Nicole with Amber; Above right: Kari with Shelby Williams; Not shown due to camera malfunction: Chrissy Rochester from Rancher's Market.

#### Waste Management Seeks to Expand Landfill

Waste Management has asked Leona Valley Town Council to support its proposal for expansion of its Palmdale landfill to 11 more acres. It was noted by a resident attending the April 12 town council meeting that Waste Management may be planning to use the new landfill to accommodate trash hauled here from the San Fernando Valley.

Norm Hickling, who was present at the discussion at the meeting, said he will contact Assistant City Manager Lori Lyle to find out the date of Waste Management's meeting on the proposal in case Leona Valley Town Council wants to send a representative.



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& Thistles, that's the cursel Genesis 3:19 NASB

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## Fitness Fights Osteoporosis

By Joel Furhman, M.D.

The National Osteoporosis
Foundation estimates that 50% of women and 25% of men over the age of 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture during their lifetime.
Twenty percent of seniors who suffer from an osteoporosis related fracture die within one year.1

Fortunately, the best protection against osteoporosis is physical activity. Bones are dynamic organs, and bone tissue is continually dissolving and reforming. Bones and muscles respond similarly to stress.

As we increase the stress on our bones they respond by growing bigger and stronger. In contrast, if we don't use our bones, they will weaken and shrink from the lack of use.2,3,4

## Bone strength is directly related to muscle strength.

The most effective way to strengthen bone and protect against osteoporosis-related fractures is by increasing muscle strength.5 Weight-bearing exercises are ideal for improving balance and building bone strength.6

While swimming and biking are good for cardiovascular conditioning, they will not help protect against osteoporosis like running or lifting weights will.7

Back strengthening exercises are especially beneficial, providing lasting protection against spinal fractures in women who are at risk for osteoporosis.8

In Osteoporosis Protection for Life, I have put together a comprehensive approach combining dietary advice, supplements and special bone-strengthening exercises, offering a significant improvement over drug treatment for osteopenia and osteoporosis.

This DVD gives people the information they need to put an effective osteoporosis prevention plan into action. Just a few minutes a day or 15 minutes twice or week is all it takes to complete the exercises that will keep your bones strong for life.

For women, in addition to usual weight-bearing exercise, I also recommend wearing a weighted vest for hours each day to strengthen bones, not only during exercise, but as you work, shop, bend, stand up, and move all day. Wearing a weighted vest has other benefits as well, such as burning more calories all day, increasing core strength, and stabilizing muscles, thus improving balance and decreasing the risk of falls.9

For references, please email the editor at dahlia.grossman@veri-zon.net or go to drfuhrman.com

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#### THE MOUNTAIN YODELER

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#### Mountain Lion Shot

By Norm Judd, senior staff writer A Pine Canyon resident shot and killed a female mountain lion on Feb. 2, 2011. The incident was investigated by Lieutenant Marty Wall, California Department of Fish & Game who took possession of the remains.

Resident "James" explained, "I went out on my porch for wood, and the lion was about to get my kitten. When she saw me she reared back on her haunches with paws in the air. She was only about 10 feet away and I knew she could eat me. I shot four times and killed her. I haven't seen lions before but my neighbor told me one was around so I carried my gun.

Lt. Wall told The Yodeler, "If a resident feels threatened or his stock or property are in danger we consider the shooter justified and we take no action, but we do seize the dead lion because it is illegal to possess any part of the carcass within the state. Hunters may not even bring a legally hunted lion from another state into California.'

Lt. Wall added, "This lion weighed about 90 pounds and there seemed to be no health issues. She was shot with a 9 mm handgun fired from close range. We have had recent reports of two younger lions in the same area. Normally the kittens stay close to the mother lion for

about 18 months."

A neighbor, Mike Harrison, said, "I saw the lion a couple of days before it was shot, walking along the road at 2 a.m. I told my neighbor (James) and I suppose that was why he was carrying his gun."

## **History Picture** Night for Lakes

The Lakes Community Center is organizing a History Picture Night for Friday, May 6 at 7:00 pm at the Lakes Community Center.

We would like to bring together several of our local residents who are interested in sharing and documenting our past with pictures relating to our local history.

We have recently received some great historic maps from Muir Thompson. These maps are now displayed on the walls of our newly remodeled room that is designated to preserving our past.

This get-together would also be a format in which to discuss events and local members who have had a impact on our history.

So please put this date on your calen-

For more information, call Bill at 661-724-2490



May 1, 2011

David McBride

## Most Wanted Suspect Arrested

By Norm Judd, senior staff writer Antelope Valley's Most Wanted suspect, David Lane McBride, 38, was arrested March 4, 2011 in Green Valley. A warrant for Assault With A Deadly Weapon, was issued following a fight over a business dispute in December

Deputy Dennis Miller, who patrols The Lakes & Valleys, told The Mountain Yodeler, "McBride allegedly tried to strangle his victim. He had been seen in the 39800 block of Calle El Clavito where I arrested him without inci-

McBride was booked at Palmdale Station, posted \$30 thousand bail and was released the same day. His trial is pending.

#### I etter to the **Editor**

To the editor:

What a wonderful article written by Allaire Koslo, "Earth, Birds and Mountain Lions!" Well written, researched and applicable to

Additionally, Frank Toothaker's "Letter to the Editor," reference to the mountain lion and its preservation receives a thumbs up as it was also interesting and well done.

Submissions of this quality and nature are informative and beneficial to our local citizenry which in turn compliments The Yodeler; a pleasant contrast to the politically oriented column(s).

Harold Wilson

#### Real Estate Market - Boom or Bust? Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae Going Away?

By Linda Marcella Berg Contributing Writer

Oh no, please don't go! With the housing market already struggling to recover, a further thorn in the side of the loan and housing industry would be the phasing out of our Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac government-backed loans. What would this mean to our first-time home buyers in the medium-to lowincome bracket?

It could mean having to come up with a down payment of 10% to 20% instead of the inviting 3.5% down still available on an FHA mortgage. It could also mean much stricter qualifications to obtain a home loan. Specifically, more stringent requirements on debt-to-income ratio, which basically means the balance of how much you owe versus how much you make, with assets considered.

Why would our Obama administration want to impose this at a time when the housing market and general economy is striving to recover and get back on its feet? Let's start with a little history. History goes back to Depression era

Fannie Mae was originally launched back in 1938 and its mission was to purchase and hold loans guaranteed by the Federal Housing Administration. Th offered banks a chance to sell the loans they issued, and allowed them to offer more mortgages with longer payback periods. This blossomed into a wide availability of consumer-friendly 30-year fixed-rate loans for the public at large.

Freddie Mac was created in 1970, and made even more capital available for mortgages by buying, bundling, and selling loans to investors. Fannie Mae became a shareholder-owned company in 1968 and Freddie Mac was shareholdered from inception.

Some may say that allowing these two institutions to become public shareholder companies was a dangerous combination of public mission and private ownership, where the interest went far beyond helping the little guy out to buy his first home and boost a post-depression economy. In the land of opportunity these two entities evolved into a multi-billion dollar money-making industry. 2008, The bust year

After racking up billions in profits for their shareholders and employees. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac finally went bust in 2008, burdening taxpayers with more than \$150 billion in losses. The stated intention of our government is to prevent taxpayers from having to endure such a personal payback again by eliminating these two programs eventually.

The U.S. Treasury Department is proposing a gradual elimination of Fannie and Freddie by reducing their holdings. Currently they back more than \$5 trillion

worth of mortgages, or around half the market!

By increasing the down payment required and implementing stricter qualifying factors, they will basically make the programs less attractive to the first-time buyer, and therefore, encourage them to obtain financing elsewhere.

A local lender gives his opinion

I spoke with Craig McConnachie, manager of Guild Mortgage in Palmdale, long-time Leona Valley resident, and 30year veteran in the loan business, and asked for his opinion about the Fannie and Freddie phase-out and how that will affect people being able to get loans to buy houses affordably.

There will always be someone to pick up the slack, and FHA will still be available. The government simply cannot afford to allow these programs to disappear, and there will always be subsidizing for them.

These programs just play too big of a role to help people get financing and keep our economy going. There are also great first-time home buyer loans available with down payment assistance and zero down payment loans in rural areas." Call Craig direct for more information on

In closing, here are some "Fast Facts" published by the monthly California Association of Realtors Newsline publica-

California Median Home Price: February 2011: \$271,320 (Source; C.A.R.)

California Highest Median Home Price by region/county for February 2011: Marin \$632,580

California Lowest Median Home Price by region/county: Merced \$117,270 Note: this was typically the Antelope Valley for many years.)

California Pending Home Sales Index: February 2011: 112.1

California, First-time Buyer Affordability Index: Fourth guarter 2010: 69 percent

Mortgage Rates: Week ending 4/7/2011

30-yr. Fixed: 4.87 Fees/points: 0.7% 15-yr. Fixed: 4.10% Fees/points: 0.7% 1-vr. Adjustable: 3.22% Fees/points: 0.7% (Source Freddie Mac)

Here's wishing you all a lovely month of May!

Linda Marcella Berg, Realtor Troop Real Estate, Inc. 23822 Valencia Blvd., Suite 101 Valencia, CA 91355 661-312-2605 **CELL 661-367-6595 HOME OFFICE** 661-286-2137 FAX homesbymarcella@yahoo.com www.marcellasells.com License 01416128

## **The Art Page**

Todd Cooper Art Editor state of the ART in our community

## Nature of Things thru May

The month of May will feature the art of Jo Gayle Gerner, Pauline Numer and Cheryl Jackson Schaeffer at Lakes & Valleys Gallery.

Beginning with receptions on both Saturday May 7th and Sunday May 8th, the show will run through Sunday May 29th. Opening receptions from 12pm-4pm

Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 10am - 4pm

The artists will be in atten-

dance and painting during gallery hours each weekend in May.

The gallery is located at 43751 Lake Hughes Rd. Lake Hughes

For additional information contact Lakes and Valleys Gallery (661) 724-1312 during gallery hours.

Award winning artist Jo Gayle Gerner has been active in art shows and teaching since she arrived in the Antelope Valley 37 years ago.

She mainly paints in oils and pastels with florals and landscapes being her favorite subjects.

Many of her landscapes depict the picturesque areas around her Pearblossom home and studio (Skyrock Studio) nestled in the mountains near the Devil's Punchbowl.

Pauline Numer is a long time student of Jo Gayle Gerner, and has also studied with AV artist Charles LaMonk and other talented artists.. She paints in oils and pastels with local landscapes and flora as her main subjects. She lives in Juniper Hills with her husband David. Pauline works for the Los Angeles County Wildflower and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Cheryl Jackson Schaeffer is also a 10 year student of Jo Gayle Gerner's. She works in oils and pen and ink. Her works depict animals, both wild and domestic. She resides in Palmdale with her husband Russ and many animal friends.

Artwork, top to bottom: Cheryl Jackson Schaeffer Jo Gayle Gerner Pauline Numer











43751 LAKE HUGHES RD. LAKE HUGHES, CA 93532 featuring works by local artists

"Nature of Things"

works by

JoGayle Gerner, Cheryl Jackson Schaeffer, Pauline Numer

May 7 thru 29

Visa & Open Saturday & Sunday Mastercard 10am – 4pm Reception Sat & Sun May 7 & 8 Noon-4pm

#### LVAG NOTES

Members: If you have art at the gallery, it is your duty to gallery-sit. Sign up on the calendar in the hallway.

LVAG logo shirts, hats, etc available at www.zazzle.com/TheCoyoteStudios/LVAG The next LVAG general meeting will be Sunday May 29, 2011, 2pm, at the Lakes & Valleys Gallery, 43751 Lake Hughes Rd, Lake Hughes.

## soldiers news

By Jan Carlson, staff writer

On March 31, 2011, the funeral procession for SPC Rudy Acosta was scheduled to go in front of Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital on its way to the Eternal Valley Cemetery.

Hospital employees were encouraged to line the street in respect for this fallen soldier. We were all given time from our usual jobs and lined the street holding flags to show our respect, love and admiration for Rudy Acosta and his family.

SPC Acosta was 19 years old and was six weeks away from finishing his tour in Afghanistan as a medic.

On March 19, he was among several soldiers at a U. S. military base in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar province on the Pakastani border. They were all cleaning their weapons getting ready for a planned patrol when an Afghani contractor hired to help guard the base came up to them and opened fire with a machine gun.

U. S. soldiers returned fire and killed the gunman, but not before he killed SPC Acosta and Cpl. Donald Minkler, Jr., 29, of Ohio.

Acosta grew up in the Santa Clarita area. While in the Army, Acosta discovered a passion for medicine, his father said. He planned to stay in the Army and train as a surgeon.

Both of his grandfathers had served in the military, one during World War II and the

other in the Korean War.

It was a sad time, but it was a time of honor to be standing there saluting SPC Acosta, as well. People were crying, taking pictures, saluting and waving.

The Patriot Guard was among the motorcycle escort. The Patriot Guard are the ones who stand between the grieving family and the protestors that attend all military funerals. Yes, there are people who protest military funerals.

When the Acosta procession went along its route, thousands of people went to the streets. Banners with his picture hung from overpasses and the sidewalks were lined with schoolchildren, firefighters, city council members and hospital employees.

The motorcade started at Acosta's school and passed by the Army recruiting station where he enlisted. It drove past the hospital where he was born, past the Dept. of Motor Vehicles, where he got his driver's license and by a park memorializing veterans.

It ended at Eternal Valley Memorial Park, where SPC Acosta was buried with full military honors.

Please remember all these young men and women in your prayers. We can't think of them often enough.

I am reminded of an old Merle Haggard song in which the soldier is in a Vietnam prison and wonders if anyone ever thinks of

Think about the soldiers who never get mail or packages. Write to a soldier!!



Soldiers open "care" packages. At right is one of our adopted soldiers, Joshua Clark, with a package sent by Jan Carlson of Elizabeth Lake. Lakes and Valleys residents donate the items that are sent.

#### "Our" Soldiers, May 2011

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SGT JONES, MATTHEW 205TH ASMC APO AE 09375-0531

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# Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

By Cindy Lindaman
On March 30, 100 or
more Vietnam veterans
marched from the Veterans
Center on Lancaster Blvd.
to City Hall in Lancaster,
where they were addressed
by several dignitaries,
including Retired Air Force
Colonel Dick Rutin, who
flew 325 successful combat
missions in Vietnam.

It was a very touching ceremony for all, including Vietnam veteran Greg Lindaman of Green Valley. (far right in photo)

Welcome home, vets! Lindaman photo.





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#### WEATHER OR NOT?

By Tom Kaucher March 2011

High-79" on 3-31 Low-25" on 3-1 Average High-60.1" Average Low-38. Average Temperature-48.2 Lowest High-43" on 3-0 Highest Low-52" on 3-15

Precipitation- 7.50" (3.91" Above Average, 8.71" Above List Year) Sessional Precipitation (7.1-10 to 3-31-11) – 30.25" (9.42" Above Average, 7.12" Above Last Year)

Last Year-0.1°

Outlook for May 2011
the month of spring gives you he first find of summer with much warmer temperatures by the end the month. Expect daylore highs in the mid 60s to module 80s. The overnight bose will carry the no of ring with high 30s to high 50s.

#### May Averages and Records

Precipitation

Temperature High- 102" on 5-31-2001 Low- 30" on 5-6-1978 Average High- 75.7\* Average Low- 47.8" Average Temperature- 61.8o Average Precipitation- .62\* 2010 Precipitation- 0.31\*

Did you know? In 1985, a record high of 90° was the 14th time Honolulu set or tied a daily record high for the month of

## Guest Editorial: Real Energy, Real Jobs

By Robert L. Bradley Jr.

Despite record federal deficits, the Obama administration is pouring millions of tax-payer dollars into "green" jobs initiatives. In Arizona, three state agencies just announced they're using \$3 million in federal grant money to train locals for jobs at renewable-energy companies. North Carolina is spending \$1 million in federal dollars to run an analysis of the labor market to determine demand for green jobs in coming years.

Policymakers at all levels of government should pause. Washington should rescind such grants and the recipients should return the booty; these jobs are "bubble" jobs, and as such, they're bad jobs.

Back in 2010, for example, President Obama visited the California-based solar power company Solyndra to tout the plant's new jobs. Just months after his visit, Solyndra shut down its plant - having yet to turn a profit - and laid off 175 workers. Congress is now investigating the \$535 million loan guarantee the company received as part of the 2009 stimulus.

The President should have taken Solyndra's bust as a sign that "green" jobs are shaky ground on which to build America's 21st Century economy. Instead, the administration is continuing to shower money on the clean energy sector in the mistaken belief that government can pick winners and losers better than the market.

In total, the 2012 budget contains \$8 billion in subsidies, government grants, and tax breaks for clean energy technologies, which the administration claims will create millions of new jobs. The logic seems straightforward: More wind turbines and solar panels mean more jobs for builders, technicians, and engineers.

Unfortunately, there's a big problem at the center of this agenda. Simply put, staking job creation on industries that depend on government favor for survival is not a long-term solution to our economic troubles.

To be sustainable, jobs and the industries that create them - need to be based on actual consumer demand. Green jobs are created not by the market, but by subsidies and by mandate. Obama acknowledged as much in his State of the Union speech when he declared: "By 2035, 80 percent of America's electricity will come from clean energy sources." In other words, the government will create a market by requiring Americans to buy more expensive electricity from clean energy sources.

Currently, oil and natural gas supply 63 percent of our total energy needs, while renewables - wind, solar, hydropower, and ethanol - supply less than 10 percent. As a study by University of Illinois researchers bluntly puts it,: "Turning off the electricity generated from coal and other non-renewable sources...would mean that most Americans would literally freeze in the dark."

The President now includes nuclear power, "clean" coal, and (peculiarly) natural gas among his politically favored "clean" energy sources. While the inclusion of fossil fuels and nuclear power makes Obama's electricity mandate somewhat more realistic, it also makes the economic rationale for lavishing government handouts upon renewables appear all the more flimsy.

Renewables already receive more than twice the level of subsidies compared with conventional energy sources. Yet, as evidenced by Solyndra, they still can't compete with cheaper energy supplies like natural gas. And who could expect them to ,when their production costs are more than six times those of other producers?

The Obama administration's answer is to hobble the more competitive industries with huge new tax burdens. Thus, the 2012 budget contains nearly \$90 billion in tax increases on the oil and nat-

ural gas industry. Of course, it's ultimately consumers who will pay those taxes.

Consumers will also be paying higher energy prices as renewables drive up costs. The net drain on the economy will no doubt hurt job growth in other sectors, meaning that green job spending could end up a wash or worse. Spain's experience with green job spending suggests that "worse" is the far likelier outcome. According to a report by Spanish economists, the country lost 2.2 jobs for every job "created" in the "green" economy.

Nor will green jobs necessarily last long. Budget priorities shift as political parties move in and out of power and as new challenges arise. Just consider the deep cuts made to community service block grants in Obama's 2012 budget. Once a domestic-policy darling of our Community-Organizer-in-Chiet, community service grants have been pushed aside for other policy priorities - like clean energy.

If the administration wants to get serious about job creation, it should look to the industries that don't need tax-payer money to stay afloat. Moreover, by promoting affordable energy supplies, it could bring down costs in all sectors of the economy enabling the private sector to create real and sustainable jobs. With the unemployment rate at nearly 10 percent, this shouldn't be a hard choice to make

Robert L. Bradley Jr. is the CEO & Founder of the Institute for Energy Research and author, most recently, of Capitalism at Work: Business, Government, and Energy.

IER Website: www.energyrealism.org

Political Capitalism website: www.politicalcapitalism.org Energy Blog: www.MasterResource.org

Speaker Blog: www.RobertBradleyJr.com



Spring in Antelope Valley: It is is now officially spring in The Antelope Valley, with the arrival of the first band of sheep. Oh, and by the way you may notice the new set of towers on the way to Leona Valley. That now makes three, and who knows what's to come. Larry Maier

## Conservancy Against Proposed Wind Turbine Project

The following presentation was made at the April 2 meeting of the Lakes Town Council regarding the proposed NextEra wind turbine project:

By Jill Bays, president of Transition Habitat Conservancy

We are opposed to the NextEra and likewise opposed to the Element Power project locations in the Portal Ridge and AV Poppy Reserve areas — not because we are opposed to renewable energy projects in the West Mojave Desert, but because these projects are in the wrong place according to all the scientific recommendations made recently regarding utility-scale renewable energy projects being sited within the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) boundary.

I receive all of my energy from renewable rooftop solar both for power and for hot water. I generate a slight excess of energy that goes back into the grid. I believe in renewable energy as our future source but also believe that there projects can and should be put in appropriate places, not is areas of critical environmental concern or in Significant Ecological Areas.

The intent of having a land use designation of Significant Ecological Area (SEA) precludes industrial- and utility-scale development within such areas, and approval of siting three meteoroligical towers in the area indicates an eventual willingness to consider siting such a proposed 8,000- acre industrial development in the SEA.

We are also opposed because we have worked for the past three years on a conservation plan in this area where NextEra has chosen to develop. Our project is a 6,000-acre Wildlife Linkage Project, and we have invested heavily in that project, which connects the iconic AV Poppy Reserve to Ripley's Woodland State Park to L.A. County's Desert Pines Wildlife Sanctuary to USFS lands to the south.

This conservation project links already protected areas on a landscape scale and has elevational gradients that would allow wildlife range shifts necessary for survival in the event of climate change. This is an important bird area and an essential wildlife corridor linkage.

We already have a conservation easement, have appraised thousands of acres belonging to willing landowners, have land under contract and in escrow and have purchased several biological and other surveys in this project area.

See Conservancy, page 17

#### Wind Turbines from page 16

Many of the folks in this room have donated scarce dollars towards this conservation project, and this project is funded by public donations, most of them small, and powered by volunteers. I am a volunteer director and president of this organization. I don't live here so this is not a "Not In My Back Yard" type of opposition.

The proposed 8,000-acre NextEra wind project would drastically impair and fragment a critical biodiversity linkage area located in a remarkably intact and diverse portion of Portal Ridge. Such a wind turbine project would be sited directly over the Kings Canyon Linkages project initiated by Transition Habitat Conservancy, which we have designed to protect one of the few intact transition areas between the upland forest of the Transverse Range and the lowland grassland-wildflower field-Joshua tree woodland of the westernmost Mojave Desert.

Such a development would adversely affect a wide array of nesting and migratory birds, and mammal species (particularly bats) by the installation of towers, noisy wind turbines with large diameter rotor blades, roads, power lines, and infrastructure.

The loss of such an important avian nesting and migratory linkage area and biodiversity hotspot is not an impact that can ever be fully mitigated.

An important precedent was set by the Ridgecrest project by Solar Millennium LLC for the Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (Ridgecrest Solar I, Ridgecrest Solar Power Project Docket No. 09-AFC-9), a 4,000-acre solar project that was withdrawn last year because the project may have interrupted a key wildlife corridor and linkage.

Even though the applicant was willing to spend three more years and \$1,500,000 of additional funding to study the corridor, the California Energy Commission informed them that the Commission would probably not permit the project due to the significant biological importance of the site.

We strongly suggest that letting any applicant spend millions of dollars on a permitting process that is likely to be declined is not in anyone's best interest.

I am a stakeholder on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), which was set up by Gov. Schwarzenegger and is made up of wind and solar generators, utility companies, environmental groups, Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and California Energy Commission (CEC) in order to figure out where to site utility scale energy development quickly and where to focus conservation efforts.

I am very familiar with siting issues as they relate to utility-scale renewable energy projects, and have summarized some of the September 2010 recommendations from the Independent Science Advisors who prepared a report for the DRECP and for the Renewable Energy Action Team six months ago, which is made up of California Department of Fish & Game, USFWS, BLM and the CEC.

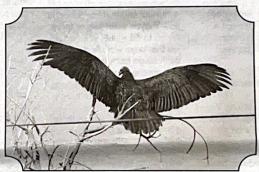
To read the relevant quotes from that study, go to . This study can be found at www.RECP.org

Jill Bays, president Transition Habitat Conservancy,, a 501 (c) (3) land trust.

P.O. Box 720026 Pinon Hills, CA 92372 Jill@TransitionHabitat.org



Barn owls at the Koslo's Munz Ranch Road ranch. Photo taken April 15 by local bird expert and biologist Dr. Callyn Yorke. See, also, page 23.



As I returned from the post office the other day I noticed either a developer or a representative of a "Green Energy" company scoping out the lake. Tom Jeffrey, Lake Elizabeth

#### Letter to the Editor

Jeff Olesh of Lake Hughes sent the following letter to Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich:

Re: NextEra - R201001593(5)

Element-Project No. R2010-00256RCUPT201000121 Dear Mr. Hickling:

I have properties in the Lakes and Portal Ridge areas. I have lived in the area for 23 years and in Los

Angeles County for 55 years.

The Lakes and Portal Ridge are surrounded by National Forest, the Arthur B. Ripley Woodland State Park, Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve and the Desert Pines Wildlife Sanctuary. Much of the land lies within Significant Ecological Areas. These lands should be protected.

It is an amazing area, magic with 22 varieties of wildflowers. Much of the area has not burned in 75 years, so on Portal Ridge you have 75-year-old mountain mahogany, manzanita, varieties of oaks, and pines. This creates a diverse and healthy wildlife habitat. Animals I have seen on my property include deer, foxes, bobcats, mountain lions, skunks, coyotes, quail, golden eagles, red tail hawks, horned toads, ducks, turkey vultures, owls, American bald eagles and bears. To destroy this environment forever with wind farms is wrong. I am opposed to wind farms. Sincerely, Jeff Olesh

## The "Green Thing"

This is an interesting perspective on today's new concern for the environment sent in by Don and Roberta Muths of Lake Hughes:

In the line at the store, the cashier told the older woman that plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to her and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

That's right, they didn't have the green thing in her day. Back then, they returned their milk bottles, Coke bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized and refilled, using the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks.

But she's right. They didn't have the green

thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts; wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house - not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a pizza dish, not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for

When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used wadded up newspaper to cushion it, not styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty, instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled pens with ink, instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But they didn't have the green thing back then. Back then, people took the streetcar and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus, instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

It's a crying shame that we didn't have "the green thing" back then!

I'm 26, single, and I've been working your Total Money Makeover plan to pay off my debt. Right now, I have just \$25,000 left to pay off, including my car.

Recently, I was offered a chance to move to Singapore for the next six months as part of my job. I won't have any real expenses while I'm there, but I'm worried about the effect it might have on my getting out of debt. How can I make all of this balance out?

Dear Jared,

Why does there have to be a balance here? In my mind, this whole situation is a fantastic catalyst for helping you get out of debt even faster than before.

Think about it. You're single, and you've got no strings attached. This is a wonderful opportunity to travel and make more money and save more money than ever before! You'll be able to accelerate your financial plan and have a great cultural experience, too!

Now, I'm not up for this idea if you're going over there just to hang out and goof off. But if you're committed to the plan and to getting out of debt, then this is something you absolutely must do. You could even go ahead and sell the car now. You'll be rid of insurance payments, buying tags, and all that stuff. Plus, it'll just sit there losing value while you're gone, anyway.

I'm not hearing anything negative in this entire situation. Go for it, Jared!

—Dave

(No writing, no money!)
Dear Dave.

I called a creditor recently to

The Mountain Yodeler

settle an old debt. They offered a settlement, but said it was their policy not to put settlement offers in writing. Should I accept the deal?

Joseph

Dear Joseph,

No way! If you don't have anything in writing, then you have no proof that they extended the offer or agreed to a specific amount. The only one who will have "proof" of anything in this scenario is the creditor, and that's just asking for trouble.

My suggestion for handling this ridiculous situation goes something like this: Explain to them that you seem to have reached an impasse because you have a policy of never accepting settlements and handing out money unless the settlements are in writing. No writing, no money! It's not a hard concept to understand, and it's fair to both parties.

-Dave

(Planning for retirement)
Dear Dave.

I'd like to move to Las Vegas when I retire in about 10 years. I've saved up quite a bit of money, and could pay cash for a property now. Should I go ahead and buy, and maybe rent it out for a while, or wait until I actually retire?

Bruce Dear Bruce,

If you can pay cash now and still have plenty of savings left over, then there's no reason not to go ahead and buy. The housing bubble has burst out there, and you'll be able to find some real bargains in and around Vegas.

I'm not big on being a longdistance landlord, but I'd be tempted to do it in a situation like this. Keep in mind that you'll probably have to renovate the place if you rent it out for several years. It's just the nature of things in the rental world, so make sure you figure that into your cash plan—and your emotional plan, too!

—Dave

(Continue taking unemployment?)

Dear Dave,

I had a wreck seven months ago. As a result, I lost my job and have been drawing unemployment for the last five months. I was making \$1,200 a May 1, 2011

month in retail management before this happened, but I'm getting just as much with unemployment, even though I can work again.

I have a small daughter, and my wife doesn't work right now. Should I continue taking unemployment so I can stay home and help with our daughter?

Tin

Dear Tim,

Absolutely not! You need to get a job right now. You could make more than you did at your old job or taking unemployment by delivering pizzas full time. I know you probably wouldn't have benefits running pizza, but how about the benefit of working for a living and making some money?

You need to get off your tail right now and find something to do — maybe even two or three things to do — until you find a job that pays well. And I don't think I'd go back into the kind of management you were in before, because even working that gig you guys were barely getting by.

It's sweet that you're there with your baby, but it's seriously time for you to get a real job. Take classes and further your education, or get into another line of work. You've got some serious responsibilities, and it's time to be a man and take care of things!

-Dave

(Spending makes her feel guilty)

Dear Dave,

My husband and I almost feel guilty about spending any of the money we've worked so hard to save. Is it common for older people who have saved their entire lives, have no debt, good pensions, and Social Security income, to become obsessed about not spending their money?

Connie

Dear Connie.

It's very common, especially among folks who have developed a pattern of living frugally for 40 or 50 years. I call it the embarrassment of riches. I've heard some people in your situation say that they're even too embarrassed to order dessert in a restaurant. They feel like it's a betrayal of who they are as a person.

You guys have worked hard, saved big, and now it's time to begin enjoying some of that money. You don't have to do things that are outlandish or wasteful, but there's nothing wrong with having a little fun with your money when you can afford to do so.

Here's an idea that might help you loosen up a bit. Every time you spend money on a luxury, or something fun for yourselves, give a percentage of the amount you spent to help someone else. You don't have to match it dollar for dollar because you don't want to blow through your nest egg and have nothing left.

Give it a try. It will bring balance to your life. You'll be able to have some fun with your money, plus you'll get the satisfaction of knowing you've helped other people!

-Dave

(Questionable investment)
Dear Dave,

My broker has recommended a managed futures fund. I've never heard of these, and I got the feeling she doesn't know much about them, either. She's always been very conservative and reliable before, so we're concerned. Can you explain something about them?

Krista

Dear Krista,

It sounds a little like she jumped off the cliff and became a roulette dealer. The term "managed futures" is virtually an oxymoron. I think she needs to explain her behavior and the investment after this stunt!

With managed futures you're basically betting on the future price of a commodity. What's the price of gold, or oil, or wheat going to be somewhere down the road? You're guessing as to what the future will bring, and managing a group of those guesses. What a joke!

People in the brokerage business represent dumb things every day. The sad thing is this is someone you thought you could trust.

-Dave

(Life insurance for singles?)
Dear Dave,

I know you usually recommend having eight to 10 times your income in life insurance.

I'm 25, single, and I have no kids. Do I still need that much life insurance? Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

The need for life insurance is very low in situations
like yours. All you really
want is enough to cover burial expenses, and clean up
any mess you may leave
behind. If you own a home
you may not have to worry
about any remaining debt,
because the sale of the
house might cover it.

Many times an employer will furnish you with life insurance equal to your yearly salary, or maybe twice that amount. In lots of cases, that alone will take care of things for young singles. Check into it!

-Dave

(Planning for the future) Dear Dave,

I'm 19 and about to start college. Thanks to my part-time job and generous parents, I'll be able to pay for college without student loans. Since I won't be borrowing money, what's my next financial step?

Patrick

Dear Patrick,

Stay away from the free t-shirt tables. Those things always have credit cards hiding behind them.
Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. But since the money is already there for school, the only thing you really need to do is save all the cash you can for after graduation.

The first couple of years after college may be the most life-changing, and volatile period of your life. If you keep working and saving like you have already, you'll have cash on hand for an emergency fund and to start your new life. Plus, you'll be able to plan for the future by investing in good, growth stock mutual funds, and maybe a Roth IRA after that!

—Dave

\* For more financial help please visit daveramsev.com.

## The Way I See It!

#### Meandering With Monsters

An opinion by Norm Judd

"Depends on Whose Ox Is Being Gored." A phrase meaning people respond to events depending on how their self-interest is involved.

I live in The Lakes and wind turbines near Tehachapi were only mildly interesting until the contentious Lakes Town Council meeting April 2, 2011 when I decided to get a

I realized that the Element and NextEra projects will also affect the Lakes & Valleys. The fears of close friends who will be in the shadows of whirling blades echoed as I drove northbound on 90th St. West, still uncertain of my opinion.

At Ave. A, I could see them, but my emotions remained flat during 13 miles along "Tehachapi - Willow Springs Rd." already lined by power poles and intersected by huge transmission lines.

Turning right toward a turbine on a dirt road, I stopped about 100 yards away at a sign, "Terra-Gen Power, LLC, Attention, this area contains Federal and State listed Desert Tortoise and Bakersfield Cactus Habitat. Trained personnel only beyond this point!"

us concern for a What magnanimous concern tortoise and cactus! Not properly trained, I stepped out cautiously to face the monstrous machine. My gut reaction, "(Expletive!) ----! That thing is huge! I felt like David gaping at Goliath! And it was only 300, not 450 feet tall like those 88 monsters proposed for Fairmont!

The turbine was shiny, symmetrical, almost graceful. By itself, not ugly. But then, empathizing with those who labored to live in serene. remote habitat, I imagined that Giant humming and shadow-flickering around the clock in my front yard! He became ugly, intrusive, threatening, and I hated him!

Driving timidly onto Baseline Rd., I passed a weathered sign at a driveway leading into grotesque giants, "For Sale By Owner, 10-acre farm" perhaps another shattered dream. I found no residents at the few homes nearby, so I scanned exhaustively with binoculars for creatures who can't speak for themselves, but found not even one Red Tailed Hawk, raven, crow, dove, rabbit or mouse! (Later, a YouTube video of a Bald Eagle being killed by a 100 mph blade explained why.)

Heading home through poppies, velvet hills, and blue skies, I felt saddened for King's Canyon, Antelope Acres, and Fairmont residents whose views may be forever altered. One

fellow told me, "We got screwed by our own Fairmont Town Council. They sold us out for donations to their treasury, and a 40-acre nature plot!" Could that be true?

Are those who would clutter homesites and beautiful open landscape of the same ilk who resist drilling an "oil hole" in part of Alaska noone ever sees? When better energy sources emerge, will the builders of these marginally efficient wind monsters be gone, leaving them to fall and deteriorate for 1000 years, symbolic of flawed policy, and the greed of taxsubsidized "green" opportunists!

America's proven oil and coal sources could make us almost independent if unfettered by our current feckless government. Yes, we should seek viable renewable sources. But our President bows to lesser leaders. abandons proven resources, stumbles into green boondoggles and toward third-world status, while China, Russia, and other adversaries leap, ahead using oil, coal, and nuclear

Atop a hill, next to his lovely home, a Kings Canyon resident said, "We worked hard to live in this ecologic sanctuary for the past 25 years. Now we may lose our tranquility, our view, our wildlife, and our property value, to greedy opportunists using my taxes to ride Obama's green tidal wave."

In frustration he continued, "In my yard I'm replacing the American flag that covered my U.S. Marine father's coffin with a Confederate flag in contempt if my government abandons me!" He added, "As a final insult, they tell us the power generated will go to San Diego!"

It's best to express your opinion by individual letters to Michael Antonovich, 113 W. Ave. M-4 Suite A, Palmdale CA 93551, and to Adam Thurtell, Wessley Colvin, or Anthony Curzi at Dept. of Regional Planning, 320 W. Temple St., Los Angeles CA 90012.

The Mountain Yodeler has been assured by Norm Hickling that Supervisor Michael Antonovich is already deeply concerned and will give top consideration to High Desert dwellers, along with health and safety and all aspects wind turbine projects. He awaits the Regional Planning review, but send your letters now.

If your ox is not gored by phase 1 of these projects, will the siting of future phases be on your hillside? Take a ride as I did, to meander with monsters, and see if you agree with, The Way I See It!



Although a wet weekend was at hand March 19 and 20, buyers still managed to rummage through. Hot coffee and baked goodies help statisfy the inconvenience. Photo: Volunteer Nicola Hamilton horses around at the St. Elizabeth Mission's recent yard sale. With her are Britney Hamilton and Merrie Profitt. Cindy Lindaman coodinated the event, Lindaman photo.

## Free Chipping Days Return

By Laura "cha" Vernetti

Residents have about a month to gather all their brush to haul it to the community center for chipping. To assist local residents of Green Valley, The Lakes and the surrounding communities, in reducing the hazardous fuels on their property the USDA Forest Service will be conducting chipping operations free of charge.

This is Green Valley's fourth year on June 6, 2011, and the third year for the Lakes, the following weekend on June 11, 2011. The hours are from 10 am to

Residents are invited to bring their brush and tree limbs up to 4 inches in diameter. Chipped material can be taken home. Chipping will be done by Forest Service personnel.

No grass, leaves, lumber or trash of any kind will be accepted. No dropoffs of any material may be made before or after the event; this will be considered illegal dumping.

The event is a joint effort of U.S.D.A. Forest Service, AFV&L Fire Safe Council, 101 Explorers, Green Valley Charitable Hall and Lakes Community

Thanks to many residents who volunteered to use their own trucks, trailers and tractors and their time gathering brush from all over Green Valley. We would like to ask residents to help us with this again. Perhaps a neighborhood pride event? See what block can bring in the most brush? We could start looking around our neighborhoods. See what areas need help. The FSC can assist in getting permission from out of area vacant land owners. Please call us

We have had a good amount of rain

this year and that means more brush. Starting after April 1, 2011, the Los Angeles County Fire Department will start inspections for improved properties and issuing warnings. Not only will they be looking for 100-foot clearance but they will also be checking to see if your property has your address clearing marked.

Insurance companies are also starting to require proper property addresses. As much as we all appreciate our privacy, it is very important that the fire department be able to find your house in the case of a fire or medical emergency.

Inspections of vacant land will begin after June 1. The Fire Safe Council (FSC) confirmed with John Cervantes, Green Valley's inspector, and David Bracken, Leona Valley's and The Lakes' inspector, that the deadline for brush clearance on vacant land in our communities is June 1, 2010. If you have not responded to the notice by mailing the card or online it is important to make sure it is sent.

In years past the FSC has worked very closely with the vacant land inspectors, notifying them what properties are on our list. We are hoping to be able to work the same way with the L.A. County Fire Department, but that has not been confirmed.

An important note: Even if you clear your brush by the deadlines, you are required to maintain that clearance year round.

We hope to see you at some of our meetings and upcoming events. Free Chipping in Green Valley June 4 from 10 to 2 and at the Lakes Community Center June 14 from 10 am to 2 pm. Our next meeting is May 4 in Green Valley at 7 pm. For more information please call 270-9911.

#### Letter to the Editor

## "Another revelation!" DADT continued

To the editor:

Mr. Judd, quite simply your response argues the same points with the same reasoning. I would like to correct you on a few things that are plainly incorrect. For the record, I am writing this response purely because I cannot permit false claims to be accepted as fact.

Firstly, I am a man. I haven't the slightest idea what gave you the impression that I was a woman, especially when I implied otherwise. This alone proves you have a tendency to print "facts" based on assumptions and opinions. I tried walking through your opinion and strategically proving you wrong previously, which clearly didn't work.

You mentioned that you were called a "homosexual expert", which I am assuming meant you have dealt with a good deal of homosexual related crime. This would give you no credibility whatsoever to pass judgment or or make generalizations about any homosexual that has not had some kind of criminal record.

According to you, 13,000 people were separated from the military in the last 18 years for "homosexual acts." Under DADT individuals were forbidden to give any indication that they were anything but straight, and could be discharged for implying otherwise. Anything that indicated they were gay could be interpreted as a "homosexual act," and could be grounds for discharge.

The amount of sexual misconduct perpetrated by gays in the military is drowned out by the staggering amount perpetrated by straight service members. Nearly one third of women in the military reported being sexually harassed (pbs.org), and that isn't counting those that go unreported. All the repeal does is to restore some semblance of equality to the military.

You claimed that sex defines homosexuality, when in fact this is completely untrue. Sex does not define homosexuality, so says every dictionary I own as well as every definition site on the web, including dictionary.com, Britannica.com,

urban dictionary, Merriam-Webster, and more. A homosexual is one who is attracted to the same sex.

The polls I cited are not "political nonsense" as you said. They were all from ".gov" cites.

"http://www.defense.gov/new s/newsarticle.aspx?id=61899 &261899=20101130" is a good example of a reliable source. I don't get my information from Wikipedia or Conservative.com.

You made a point of saying that "Heterosexuals are now muzzled and gays are free to speak and act openly," which is completely untrue, but more than that, it certainly seems like you didn't have a problem when the gays were actually being muzzled.

Also, contrary to your claim, Lambda legal is a civil rights organization that has helped to pass the only real social and legal reform protecting gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals, and people with AIDS. It most certainly does not defend lewd behavior.

It truly shocked me when you quoted someone stating that "combat precludes homosexuality." That claim is not only ridiculous, but unfounded, ignorant, and disrespectful. A synonym for precludes is prevents, and I don't care who said it, quoting that was childish at best. Ask a homosexual if being thrown in the trenches would stop them from being gay, and see what they tell you.

I assume that when you

say "extremist Islamics dictate death penalties", (which by the way is incorrect grammar), you mean in certain areas of Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other Middle Eastern countries.

The extremists dictate death penalties for everyone, not just gays. Do you really think enraged extremists who hate Americans for what we've done around the world are actually going to worry about sexual orientation? I doubt that having an impartial military will make them want to kill us any more than they already do.

The leaders of the military branches and the personnel themselves collectively agreed that the repeal would hardly be "disruptive" at all. The Pentagon has put out a report clearly stating that any effects would be isolated and short term,

(http://www.defense.gov/hom e/features/2010/0610\_gatesdadt/DADTReport\_FINAL\_20 101130%28securehires%29.pdf).

There is no logic in saying that not being able to get fired for being gay would be disruptive. I have no idea how you justify saying that it is expensive, but it's obvious that you use terms with negative connotations to drive your point home.

If there is one thing I cannot tolerate in this world it is intolerance. It shouldn't really matter; but at the risk of being falsely labeled again I can truthfully say that I am a heterosexual man. Just like Norm Judd.

-Peace





Pine Canyon was hit hard during our last snow storm. Afterwards, college student Isaac Baertlein plowed the road to his parents' house. Baertlein photo.

## Big Kids' Book Corner When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Reviewed By Dawn Baertlein

The title of this book, When You Reach Me, didn't grab me at first. I kept passing it by even though I'd heard it was good. I hope this review will keep you from making the same mistake.

When You Reach Me is a well-crafted mystery of scientific proportions. It starts out rather ordinary, with Miranda helping her mother practice for an appearance on The \$20,000 Pyramid with Dick Clark, an iconic 1970s TV game show.

Miranda is a pretty ordinary New York City middle school kid. Every day she walks home from school past a gang of bullies and a crazy homeless man who sleeps under a mailbox. Then she uses her "latch key" to let herself into the empty apartment.

She lives with her single mom in the same building as her former best friend since forever, a boy named Sam. For some reason Miranda can't figure out, Sam stopped talking to her the day he got punched by one of the bullies. But that's not the biggest mystery.

The biggest mystery is a series of strange notes Miranda keeps finding that foretell the future. They turn up in the strangest places, and at first she tries to convince herself that they weren't meant for her. But soon they get too personalized to innove

Miranda reads and rereads Madeline L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time (a wonderful book, by the way) over and over and over again. She carries it with her everywhere and thinks of it as her own private book.

When she finds out that a girl she dislikes with a passion and the guy who punched Sam, also like her special book she's baffled. How could these two horrible people love her book? And how could Marcus be such a stupid bully and so smart at the same time?

Everything comes together in the end in a very satisfying if surprising way.

When You Reach Me is recommended for kids ages 9 – 12. This kid might even read it again, now that I know what clues to look for.

Happy Reading!

## What the trees told me (a small town story)

My name is Cinzia
Aversa. I am from Rome,
Italy. I live on Sandrock
Drive, just across from the
lake and I have been a resident of The Lakes since
September 2008.

I always had a passion and a great respect for nature, and when my husband – a proud American – and I found our dream house in Elizabeth Lake and moved from Glendale, I felt blessed for being able to live in such a beautiful environment.

Chapter one: During my first walks around the neighborhood and along the lake shore, on the Sandrock Drive side, I soon realized that not everybody shared my same feelings: trash, broken glass, bottles, bundles of fishing line abandoned in the bushes and in shallow water, dangerous rusty fishing hooks. empty bait boxes, even rags and broken chairs, food containers, cigarette butts, Starbucks cups, plastic bags, and I could go on and on, even with items which you don't really want to hear about, would tell a different and sad story.

However, after asking myself a number of times how people could even think of trashing such a nice area, I started observing the folks I saw around on the shore, their behavior while fishing or having a picnic with friends and family, and I even glanced at the cars - and the state of their interiors - parked at the unofficial/official "entrance" of the lake, on Sandrock Drive.

Soon I realized that the damage came mainly from "outsiders," occasional or regular visitors to our lake, many of whom probably couldn't even see the environment around them before first having a few beers in their system - or a full bottle of vodka or whiskey, adjudicating from the several souvenirs I had seen around and by then the "downer" effect of the alcohol makes them unable to pick up after themselves.

Soon I started picking up

trash regularly, joining a number of other residents who – I was told – had been doing it for years, some upset like me, some more inclined to think that in this world there are simply "trashers" and "cleaners" and each one of us should simply smile and be proud of their job.

Being an Italian, sometimes a bit bold and quite outspoken, I have a different attitude, and started telling anybody who I met at the lake to make sure to not leave any trash behind them.

Some promptly answered "No problem!" or "Sure thing!" Others looked at me like I was stupid or from another planet (I am Italian, from Rome, but I'm a LEGAL alien) and one could feel their silent thought "Mind your business, b....!".

A few times I caught the people in the act of tossing a piece of paper or plastic on the ground, just while I was gathering trash, and I can ensure you they felt bad after I said "Hil" and asked them to pick it up and put it in my trash bag.

The funniest of all was a man, part of a group of friends, who was sitting on the sand, with one bottle of beer in one hand, a hopeless fishing rod in the other one, and the necks of three empty bottles of the same type sticking up from the water just in front of him.

I asked him if he had thrown those in the water, and he quickly answered "No!" I asked again "Those three bottles, sir, are they yours?" "No!", he answered again. Visibly upset, I started picking them up, telling him that it was not okay that he lied to me, that we - residents of the lake - are trying to keep it clean and all I wanted was for him to place them in my trash bag. "OK, OK, OK!" he cut me off, and then "Sorry!"

After a couple of seasons, it got better; there is less trash around, but the cleaners keep working, and at least one duck, one Blue Herron and one turtle were

found caught in abandoned fishing line in the past two years. The two birds died; the turtle was rescued by my family and me, after spending two days with the line entangled around her neck and legs, barely able to swim to the surface to breathe. I had seen her in the water in the same exact spot for two day and so I got suspicious.

When I took her out of the water – I had to get wet up to my knees to do it - the line so tight around her throat and on her last leg, I had to struggle in order to find a way to safely cut it and release her.

Chapter 2: But my last adventure was perhaps the best – or the worst, depending on the point of view. Last year several big tree branches on Sandrock Drive were cut off by someone who probably didn't like the fact that they couldn't have a clear view of the lake from their windows.

I have to admit, I am lucky and I can clearly see the water all year around from my windows. But if every home owner on Sandrock thought it was okay to cut off the trees to have their private lake view, this place would be quite desolate, to say the least.

Besides the fact that the lake is private property – oh, minor point! And that the wildlife really counts on us to keep the place safe for them. But who cares about stupid birds and trees anyhow?!

As I was saying, several trees and large branches were cut off, little by little, probably over a few weeks and during the winter time, when the lack of foliage makes it more difficult to see the difference between a bare tree and a tree without branches. In order to do so, even a section of the chain link fence was removed, including the "PRIVATE PROPERTY" sign on it, where before there had been for years just a small hole in the net and a good quantity of greenery and trees.

From my deck, I personally witnessed a man (I will not say who or his address at this point, as instructed by the trees) coming out of the bushes with a chain saw in

hand, so I reported the fact to a town council member, who approached the family of that person and warned them that cutting trees in a private property is illegal, and if caught in the act, a person can suffer severe consequences for that.

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The family declined any responsibility for the fact, but the local deputy and the owner of the lake were notified. You would think that would hinder any further intentions of illegal "intense trimming."

But the story didn't end there. I was home in Italy for a few months. When I returned in Summer, I found in the same spot more branches freshly cut, lying on the ground with leaves still on them.

A few months ago, last fall, a deputy knocked at my door asking questions about the cutting of the same trees along the lake, because someone else – not me - had reported seeing someone this time taking off cut off branches out of the area.

My stomach cramped, and after answering the deputy's questions about the first episode I had observed, I went to see the trees area and there was, in fact, a large tree already mutilated, which had been just severed again and almost at the bottom.

The Sheriff took pictures of the fresh crime scene, asked questions of another resident passing by and left. I also took pictures. A few weeks ago, I was happy to see that new small branches were born around the cut of the tree and along his remaining part, and I thought that after all there was still life in that poor tree stump and this was good.

Whoever had done what had been done would possibly feel more inclined to let the new branches grow, and birds nest, and all the rest that comes from such a marvel of Nature. But no, a few days went by and almost all the little new branches had been snipped and cut off. They would become "BIG BAD BRANCHESI" over time and obstruct their view! Off with their heads!

Call me a tree hugger, a stupid sentimental Italian, or worse, whatever you want. But I have lost a lot of sleep over those trees in the past year, since this saga started. What could I do to stop this, since I have no chance to catch the culprit in the act, or take a photo of him with my camera, unless I spend my days guarding the remaining trees 24/7, in a camouflaged gear!

Epilogue: So, I spoke to the trees. Yes, you heard me. I spoke to them, and to one in particular, the one with the recently cut off baby branches. And he said to me that he is tired, wounded, suffering, ready to give up, and his brothers likewise.

They have been decimated and want some justice, if any human cares, but they don't know how to write or talk, and if only someone could make a sign saying "Please! Stop cutting off my branches. You did enough. I am just trying to survive!" that could probably help to stop the illegal and brutal cutting.

I asked "Who was it?" but the tree's answer was that, as gentle as they are, trees don't like harboring revenge or other negative feelings, which are more human-like stuff, and that they are willing to forgive anybody for a mistake, if they genuinely feel remorse.

Who was doing it doesn't matter, provided that they stop it and learn to enjoy and respect Nature (and private property – minor point!).

So I did. I made a sign and I planted near the tree, as requested, in his and all the other trees' behalf.

And now I am here, telling you folks about this tale, trying to make you smile and hoping this will help stopping whoever has been doing this, so he or she can join us all, to preserve our lake and town as beautiful and alive as they are. Thanks.

Cinzia Aversa Freelance Translator and Writer P.O. Box 73 Lake Hughes, CA 93532 cinziaaversa@hotmail.com

## The High Desert Organic Gardener

By Robert Kerekes, contributing writer Veterinarian Barbara E. Royal says that in order to have healthy animals it is necessary to bring the wild back to the animal. Then I guess we must bring the wild back to the human. If the human cannot experience the wild then how will the human bring it back to any animal?

Well then, how do we bring it back to our food production, animal and plant?

I am surprised how many people tell me they grow tomato plants but never get any tomatoes. Too much nitrogen will produce lush, large, green tomato plants that do not produce tomatoes. Most tomato plants will not set flowers in temperatures over ninety. That is us most of the summer. Plants need enough phosphorous to produce blooms. Check your soil for phosphorous.

Stay away from those lush, meaty, super-flavorful Heirlooms. They are just too tender for our summer heat. Pick hardy tomato varieties that have a relatively thick skin. Start with super hardy cherry type tomatoes as they will withstand harsher conditions better than full size tomatoes. The hardiest I have yet to grow here is Gold Nugget.

Pick determinate tomato plants over indeterminate. Determinates are in general hardier, and grow a stocky, bushy plant over a elongated, huge plant. Determinates have a definite growth period, that is, they will stop producing after a certain length of time. Indeterminates will grow as long as the conditions are right. If an indeterminate is chosen, pick a smaller plant variety, such as Cherokee purple.

Do not stake or cage up the plants. Allow them to spread out over the ground. This will keep the plants cooler, especially beneath the foliage, and also reduce cracking. I water by short sprinklers so my plants get wet, with tendencies towards greater insect predation of the tomatoes, especially from sow bugs, but not enough damage to cause me enough problems. My poultry love tomatoes, so damaged ones

I did meet a woman in Lake Hughes who keeps her tomatoes watered by burying organic matter into the soil beneath the plants and then running a pipe into the ground through which she runs water and thus keeps it dry beneath her plants. She claims excellent results. Another way of doing this is to bury soaker hoses into the soil around the plants. If you do this, nutrients must be mixed into the soil.

#### SOIL TESTING

It is a good idea to do a soil test. The simplest and least expensive method is to purchase a soil test kit. Four things are tested: soil ph, nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

Soil and chemistry are mixed together and in some cases the color of the solution in a test tube is matched to strips of color in a pamphlet or on a sheet. In other cases test strips change color and that is matched.

Soil ph is important but chances that anyone is going to have the ideal ph for any particular plant is slim. Much of the soil in our general area is too alkaline and most plants prefer a slightly acid to slightly alkaline soil.

Ph is measured from 0 to 14 with 7 being neutral. Below 7 is acidic and above 7 is alkaline. There are probes that will measure ph quickly but the cheap ones don't work well and don't last, so spend a little.

#### MEDICINAL PLANTS

BURDOCK: There is common burdock (Arctium minus) and greater burdock (Arctium lappa), also called gobo in Japan, where it is used extensively. This is a biennial, which develops a large tap root similar to carrots and parsnips and is used similarly.

Common burdock grows extensively here in the States but that variety is not sort after. It excels and has no rival as a blood purifier. I know that in this day and age we do not tend to think of such things as blood purifiers, or liver tonics, or cleansing the liver, or the kidneys, but these things do make a big difference.

Many skin ailments, such as eczema, acne, psoriasis, boils, herpes, syphilitic sores, sties, carbuncles, cankers, rashes of various kinds, and so on are caused by polluted blood. Burdock is also used in cancer cures and is to be found in my skin cancer salve. James H. Duke recommends it

The roots are harvested during the first year of growth. When used medicinally, the roots are cut up into small pieces, dried, boiled in water, let to stand and drunk twice a day.

YARROW (Achillea millefolium): a perennial, is a common weed, but one which should be cultivated or allowed to grow. It is the best natural anti-inflammatory around. Throw away the aspirin or any other anti-inflammatory the pharmaceuticals are supplying you with. It is also used for female organ problems such as Amenorrhea. Another satisfying product supplied by nature, at no cost.

The Garden Co-op meets monthly on the second Saturday at 2 pm at my place in Antelope Acres. The next meeting is May 14, 2011. The first hour will be a class open to everyone. The topic is: Seasonal Growing All Year. The fee is seven dollars. After class is open discussion. Call or e-mail me for directions.

#### In Loving Memory Claudia Brower

Claudia Elizabeth Brower, passed away April 1 after a heroic battle with Multiple Myeloma - surrounded by loving family members and close friends.

Claudia was born in Pasadena in 1949. In 1956, she and her family moved to Lancaster. She graduated from AV High School in 1967.

Later, she attended the Lawton School of Medical and Dental Assistants where she became a registered dental assistant. She recently retired from working in the Lancaster periodontal office of Philip LoPiccolo, DDS, after 25 years as office manag-

Claudia was the loving wife of Dean H. Brower, who retired from AV Hospital in 2001. In addition, she leaves behind her son, Joshua Cummings (Jennifer), her two-monthold grandson, Gavin Dean Cummings and her step-grandson Connor of Elk Grove, California. She is also survived by her devoted sister, Cyndy May, of Lake Hughes and, many step-sisters, step-brothers, step-sons, and step-daughters, whom she loved as her own.

She was the daughter of Marjorie Archer, formerly of Lancaster, and Charles Compton of Palmdale. She was also the step-daughter of John Archer of Carlsbad, and Estelle Compton of Palmdale

In lieu of flowers, a donation to the charity of your choice, in Claudia's memory, would be appreci-

Claudia's Celebration of Life on April 16 was filled with an outpouring of love from her friends and family. Her loved ones spoke of her love of life, her kind and generous spirit, and her never ending cheerfulness, even during her illness.

She loved people and she loved animals.

She was amazingly creative. For every holiday she created a special handmade outfit, complete with shoes.

Whatever she did, she completely threw herself into it. She was remarkable at her job and did it effortlessly," said a coworker. "Claudia, you'll always have a place in my heart," she said.

Jeff Faulkner, who grew up with Claudia, talked of her love of life and her wild imagination. "She had more ideas than you can shake a stick at," he said. She always came up with some hairbrained scheme and led us around," he

Her compassion for others was boundless. When she heard about a local family in need, she anonymously adopted them, and for years brought

Her son Josh was the light of her life and she was overjoyed when he and his wife presented her with a grandson earlier this year.

"Her smile and her laugh were infectious," said her father Charles Compton. "I had seven lights in my life and now one has gone out," he said.

Claudia, your love will live on in all of our hearts forever.





#### Green Valley's Newest Marine

By a proud mom, Cindy Lindaman Justin Shane McMullen graduated boot camp April 8 at Camp Pendleton in San Diego. He spent three intense months learning what the corp is all about.

After 10 days of liberty he will return for another three months of infantry schooling.

After that, it is not known where he will be sent. But ready he is. All his life he has dreamed of this. Now he is living his dream.

Thank you, Justin, for your devotion and dedication. Good luck in your endeavors.



May 1, 2011

#### Queens Attend LVIA Breakfast

By Christy Adams

The pancake breakfast held on Saturday, April 2, to raise funds and add members for the Leona Valley Improvement Association (LVIA) was delicious! A great bargain, the breakfast included pancakes with strawberry topping and whipped cream or syrup plus eggs and sausage along with coffee and juice.

Attendees included members of the Leona Valley Town Council, LVIA members and other hungry locals like me.

The gang from SERTOMA gave their support by holding their twice monthly meeting at the breakfast.

Our queens made an appearance along with Cathy Toso, local Realtor (see photo above), and hard working helper at Leona Valley get togethers!

If you want more info on joining with great people in our area to host and attend some of our local events and raise money for worthy causes including Lakes Little League, please call Steve Fredericks at 661 270 0771 or at his cell 661 878 6178 for SERTOMA or Peggy Fuller at 661 270 0771 for LVIA.



Alice Benoit with Dr. Robert Meese, visiting ornithologist from UC Davis at The Painted Turtle Camp Boathouse on April 5.

#### Nature Report Springing Forth!

By Lakes Honorary Mayor Allaire Koslo

In our Lakes Community we have had some expert biologists visit recently. I was honored to be their tour guide for two birding adventures at our Lake Hughes

Painted Turtle Camp. On April 5, Dr. Robert Meese, a professor and ornithologist at the University of California, Davis, and Leona Valley resident Alice Benoit were specifically looking for the tri-colored black-birds in our area.

There were many red-winged blackbirds, but unfortunately not any signs of tri-colored blackbirds at The Painted Turtle. Dr. Meese has recommendations to help attract a colony in the future.



On our walk we came across a dead female Mallard duck in the water. Her mate would not leave her side. It was quite sad, but beautiful.

Dr. Callyn Yorke, biologist and professor at Antelope Valley College, also visited The Painted Turtle Camp and our barn owl chicks on Munz Ranch Road on April 15. (See photo at right.)

We were lucky and overjoyed to see a rare colony of 20 tri-colored blackbirds at our property near the barn that day during the official count. Next month I will be able to report more fully on the tri-colored blackbird count and the results of The Leona Divide Race, which is on April 30.

And finally, after three years of trying, and entering the lottery in order to get a permit to climb Mt. Whitney, I am extremely happy and excited to let you know that we have reservations for June!

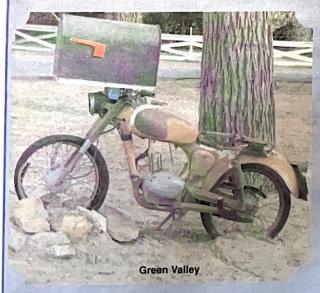
Thus, certainly I will be writing about this adventure and sharing our experiences in nature at high altitude!

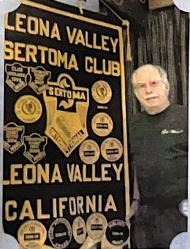
Nuns for Fun will have performances during this merry month of May, out of town as well as locally. Find me on facebook, or my blog, website or via email for further information: allaire@igc.org.

Happy Springtime into Summer!

#### Mailbox of the Month

Photo by Cindy Lindaman





Sertoma members, including Ray Mullins (pictured here), showed their support for LVIA by having their meeting at LVIA's pancake breakfast. Photo: Christy Adams



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